Meeting Highlights | October 22, 2007
Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan
Basin Advisory Panel

Meeting Overview
The Basin Advisory Panel decided to recommend the Groundwater Management Plan for adoption by the Sonoma County Water Agency and cooperating partners. The Panel provided substantial feedback on the Executive Summary, which will be incorporated before the plan is submitted to the Boards.

Upcoming Meetings
- Nov 6, 2007, 11:00 a.m. SCWA Board Meeting to Consider Adopting the Groundwater Management Plan in Santa Rosa, Administration Building
- Nov 6, 6:30 p.m., Briefing for Valley of the Moon Water District, City of Sonoma Council with Board of Supervisors Chair Valerie Brown, at Valley of the Moon Water District Office
- Nov 9, noon, Technical Advisory Committee
- ~~Nov 29, 2:00, Basin Advisory Panel~~ CANCELLED
- Jan 24, 2:00-5:00, Basin Advisory Panel

Tentative Dates for 2008
January 24
March 27
May 22
November 6

Action Items

Responsible	Due	Action
Al Bandur & Krishna Kumar	Nov 1	Provide name of landscaper who might be interested in joining BAP
Tim Parker	Jan 1	Meet with Ray Larbre about Panel membership
Gina Bartlett	Nov 1	Add Chamber and Economic Development Board to Briefing List in Public Engagement Plan

Briefings
Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Association
Ned Hill and Norm Goldstein briefed the growers association. The association will revise and submit an endorsement letter once the final plan is published.

Sonoma Ecology Center
Ed Nelson briefed the board of the Sonoma Ecology Center. The board will submit an endorsement letter approving the plan.

Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District
The Board approved Leandra to support the plan moving forward.

Private Water Agencies

John Robb has notified 30 water agencies about the plan. He will keep them updated as implementation moves forward.

Executive Summary

The Panel urged that the Executive Summary needs to "tell the story" that the Panel is trying to tell and that the modeling demonstrates: action is necessary to prevent groundwater levels from decreasing. Groundwater use is not sustainable unless action is taken. The modeling demonstrates what happens if we do "everything" and what happens if we don't: the modeling results table should be included. One person recommended the following format:

- What is the problem?
- What are we going to do?
- How will it benefit users?

Second, the Panel encouraged staff to make the Executive Summary more concise.

After some discussion and concerns, the Panel agreed that the Executive Summary should state clearly that the Sonoma County Water Agency is responsible for funding implementation. However, others will be able to apply for funding to implement projects. The Basin Advisory Panel will review and recommend projects implemented under the auspices of the groundwater management plan. Because the Water Agency has a member on the Panel, the agency representative would negotiate with Panel members directly to reach agreement on recommendations.

Vision—The Panel did not recognize the vision statement. While some Panel members liked the vision, others thought it clouded or duplicated the goal, and ultimately everyone agreed to drop it.

The Panel had additional feedback on the overall plan, but will submit comments in writing.

Recommending the Groundwater Management Plan for Adoption

Each Panel member agreed to recommend the plan for adoption by the Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma City Council, Valley of the Moon Water District, and Sanitation District Board. Panel members individually articulated their support and recommendation. The SCWA Board will consider adoption at its November 6 meeting. The City Council, Valley of the Moon Water District Board and Supervisor Valerie Brown will have a joint briefing at 6:30 on November 6.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Nov 9 at Noon

The Technical Advisory Committee will meet to discuss:

Possible Projects for AB 303 Funds
1. Monitoring wells
2. Additional analysis of recharge (consulting with USGS)
3. Sonoma Creek: seepage runs or tracers
4. All of these would feed into future modeling